

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 9, 2006. Claims 1, 3 to 5, 7, 9 to 11, 13 and 15 to 18 are pending in the application, with Claims 2, 6, 8 and 12 having been cancelled herein, and Claims 15 to 18 having been added herein. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are the independent claims.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,917,489 (Thurlow). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention is directed to a communication apparatus in which plural kinds of communication partner information can be registered for each of multiple communication partners. A plurality of identifiers are detected in a body part of the received e-mail, where each of the plurality of identifiers is represented by a first character string and symbols bracketing the first character string. A kind of the identifier is specified and a plurality of second character strings, each of which follows each of the respective specified identifiers are detected. Then, the plurality of detected second character strings are registered into areas in a storage means, each of which corresponds to the kind of the identifier followed by the second character string. If a plurality of identifiers, each of which indicates the name of a communication partner, are specified, then the registration is repeatedly performed for every identifier indicating the name of the communication partner. Thus, one feature of the invention resides in the ability of a communication apparatus to store plural kinds of communication partner information for each of plural communication partners, even if all such information is received in a single e-mail message.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus having a function of transmitting/receiving e-mail, comprising receiving means for receiving an e-mail, storage means for storing a plurality of kinds of communication partner information including an e-mail address or a telephone number for each communication partner, first detecting means for detecting, from the received e-mail, a plurality of identifiers in a body part of the received e-mail, where each of the plurality of identifiers is represented by a first character string and symbols bracketing the first character string, specifying means for specifying kinds of identifiers detected by the first detecting means, second detecting means for detecting a plurality of second character strings, each of which follows each of the respective identifiers specified by the specifying means, registering means for registering the plurality of second character strings detected by the second detecting means into areas in the storage means, each of which corresponds to the kind of the identifier followed by the second character string, and control means for controlling the registering means to perform the registration only if the detected identifier followed by the second character string is one of a redetermined kind of identifier, wherein if a plurality of identifiers, each of which indicates the name of a communication partner, are specified by the specifying means, the control means controls the registering means to repeatedly perform the registration for every identifier indicating the name of the communication partner.

Claims 7 and 13 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art of Thurlow is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7 and 13, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of detecting, from a received e-mail, a plurality of identifiers in a body part of the

received e-mail, where each of the plurality of identifiers is represented by a first character string and symbols bracketing the first character string, detecting a plurality of second character strings, each of which follows each of the respective identifiers, and registering the plurality of second character strings into areas in a storage means, wherein if a plurality of identifiers, each of which indicates the name of a communication partner, are specified, the registering is repeatedly performed to register every identifier indicating the name of the communication partner.

Thurlow merely discloses that a user can create a rule to be applied to received messages interactively by operating a graphical user interface. The rules are created as shown in Figs. 6a to 6c and Figs. 7a to 7c. Thus, the user merely creates rules for handling incoming e-mail messages, but Thurlow is not seen to teach the features of the present invention.

Specifically, the Office Action alleges that columns 11 and 12 (and Tables I and II) of Thurlow teach the claimed specifying means and registering means. However, neither of Tables I or II teach the claimed features of detecting the identifiers of the communication partner, specifying the kinds of identifiers, and registering the second character string, as claimed.

Additionally, the Office Action alleges the Thurlow teaches “forward it to an address list” as allegedly corresponding to the claimed registration process. However, merely forwarding a received e-mail to an address list is not a registration process, and is also not a process for registering communication partner information.

Moreover, Thurlow is not seen to disclose or to suggest the feature of if a plurality of identifiers, each of which indicates the name of a communication partner, are

specified, the registering is repeatedly performed to register every identifier indicating the name of the communication partner.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1, 7 and 13, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not believed to be anticipated by Thurlow.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Kmett', is written over a horizontal line.

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